

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6956

S E C R E T CAIRO 12261

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG KN KS US

SUBJ: FAHMY ON KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 223859, (B) STATE 224789

1. AS INSTRUCTED I SPOKE WITH FAHMY AT 2 P.M. SEPTEMBER 11 TO TELL HIM THAT WE WELCOME HIS EFFORTS ARRANGE A NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE WITH HIS EFFORTS. I REFERRED TO YOUR SEATTLE SPEECH OF JULY 22 CALLING FOR RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND REITERATING YOUR PROPOSAL OF A YEAR AGO FOR A DUADRILATERAL CONFERENCE. I ADDED THAT SUCH CONFERENCE COULD TAKE PLACE DURING UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK OR AT ANOTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SITE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ACCEPT NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL US-DPRK DISCUSSIONS EXCLUDING ROK. I TOLD FAHMY ON YOUR BEHALF THAT WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING HE CAN DO TO BRING ABOUT NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS OR A QUADRILATERAL FORUM.

2. FAHMY SAID WE MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD HIS EARLIER REMARKS AND ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NEVER SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT SEEK TO INTERFERE IN HIS EFFORTS

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TO MEDIATE. HE DID SAY THAT OVER A YEAR AGO AT OUR

REQUEST HE HAD GOTTEN A WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE AND THAT WE HAD NEVER RESPONDED TO HIS INFORMING US OF THAT FACT. FAHMY HAD NOT PRESSED US FOR AN ANSWER BUT HAD NOTED OUR LACK OF RESPONSE.

3. FAHMY RECOUNTED THAT HE HAD RENEWED THIS OFFER OF MEDIATION DURING ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE HAD HAD WITH SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL, AMBASSADOR EILTS AND THE CORE GROUP PRIOR TO COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. HE SAID THAT SOUTH KOREA HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAD ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL SUCH DIALOGUE WOULD TAKE PLACE AND ITS SITE. FAHMY HAD RESPONDED THAT IT SHOULD BE AT THE FONMIN LEVEL AND IN CAIRO. HE HAS ASKED FOR NORTH KOREA'S RESPONSE, WITHOUT INDICATING SOUTH KOREANS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER AS YET. FAHMY SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS NORTH KOREA MAY PREFER TO USE "EXISTING MACHINERY" WHICH HE EXPLAINED AS DISCUSSIONS IN UN FORUM.

4. FAHMY CONCLUDED THAT HE APPRECIATED YOUR VIEWS AND CLARIFICATION OF US POSITION AND THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO CONTINUE OFFER HIS GOOD OFFICES TO TRY ARRANGE THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

5. COMMENT: FROM FAHMY'S REMARKS IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH SOUTH KOREAN CONGEN CHANG HAS GOTTEN OUT IN FRONT OF HIS GOVERNMENT BY ACCEPTING FAHMY'S MEDIATION EFFORTS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CORRECT FAHMY 'S IMPRESSION. I WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT CHANG'S VERSION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON FAHMY'S OFFER. FAHMY WAS IN RELATIVELY GOOD MOOD AND BRUSHED ASIDE ANY SUGGESTION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE EARLIER EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS MEDIATION ATTEMPTS. HE PROFESSED TO HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT ALL ALONG THAT WE SUPPORTED HIS EFFORTS.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO SEOUL.
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MATTHEWS

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